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November 7, 2017

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire  
Chief Clerk & Administrator  
Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Re: Duke Energy Progress, LLC - Request Approval of Equal Payment Plan WeatherProtect  
**Docket No. 2017-328-E**

Dear Ms. Boyd:

By this letter, the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") hereby notifies the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") that ORS has reviewed and does not object to the request submitted by Duke Energy Progress, LLC ("DEP" or the "Company") in the above referenced Docket. The Company requests that the Commission approve DEP's proposed Equal Payment Plan WeatherProtect ("EPPWP") pilot program.

EPPWP is a voluntary payment plan similar to the Company's existing Equal Payment Plan and is designed to provide customers a level of bill certainty by reducing the risk of weather variations through an equalized payment plan that limits the annual true-up amount by a calculated weather normalized billing usage cap. This program will be offered to residential customers served by the Residential Service Schedule RES who meet certain usage and payment requirements and are enrolled in the Company's My Home Energy Report Program. According to the Company, the EPPWP is not available for new applicants or renewals on and after November 30, 2020.

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Although ORS does not oppose the Company's request, ORS does not waive, and specifically reserves, its rights to respond to and review any subsequent Company requests regarding EPPWP.

Sincerely,



Andrew M. Bateman

cc: Frank R. Ellerbe, III, Esquire (via E-Mail)  
Heather Shirley Smith, Esquire (via E-Mail)  
Rebecca J. Dulin, Esquire (via E-Mail)  
Joseph Melchers, Esquire (via E-Mail)